

18th August 1925]

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ I am not aware of that.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Is he aware, Sir, that there had been no systematic attempt made to exhibit Indian manufactures and arts and that the exhibits consisted of a mere jumble of cheap articles? ”

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ May I say, Sir, that it is not so? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ It is merely a repetition of the first question.”

*Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, and Ink Factory, Madras.*

\* 58 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the officer who is responsible for the purchase of the large stock of soda-ash lying unused in the Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, and the action taken by the Government with reference to him, if the purchase so made was without any necessity ;

(b) the total amount of the bad and doubtful debts of the Institute, referred to in the balance sheet for the year ending 31st March 1924, and the responsible officers who advanced money or its equivalents and the private individuals who owe the debts now respectively ;

(c) the circumstances under which 155 gallons of ink were lost in transit (vide paragraph 7 of enclosure to the letter of the Director of Industries, No. 190-E-24, dated 3rd August 1924) and the steps taken to prevent the recurrence of such losses ; and

(d) the concern or concerns of the Government whose audit has been entrusted to Messrs. Fraser & Ross but has been carried out by them only as a test audit as in the case of the Ink Factory, Madras?

A.—(a) The purchase was made in the year 1918 by Sir Frederick Nicholson when, owing to the war restrictions then prevailing, supplies of caustic soda were unprocurable. The war ended sooner than was expected and caustic soda again became available in the market at a price cheaper than that at which it could be manufactured in the Kerala Soap Institute from soda ash. This accounts for the stock now lying unused in the Institute. The Director of Industries is disposing of it as quickly as possible as and when opportunity occurs.

(b) The total amount of bad and doubtful debts on 31st March 1924, as will be seen from the balance sheet itself, was Rs. 598-8-9. Almost the whole of it represents the value of soap advanced by the management of the Institute on credit in the usual course of business. Part of the amount is likely to be recovered. The Government consider it undesirable to publish the names of individual debtors.

(c) The loss was mainly due to the leakage and evaporation which occurred during transit and to a lesser extent to leakage during the loading and unloading of the barrels. It is impossible to avoid some leakage from barrels during transit and, as such transfers take place only very infrequently, the Government do not consider it necessary to prescribe any special precautions beyond the exercise of ordinary care.



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(d) The following is a list of concerns at present test-audited by Messrs. Fraser & Ross :—

- (1) Government Industrial Institute, Madras
- (2) Nilambur Valley forests.
- (3) Willingdon House, Ootacamund.
- (4) Wynaad forests.
- (5) Mount Stuart Working Circle.
- (6) Industrial Engineer's Workshop.
- (7) Leather Trades Institute.
- (8) Fruit Preserving Institute, Coonoor.
- (9) Cinchona Department.
- (10) Government Industrial Institute, Madura.

In addition to the work of test-audit, Messrs. Fraser & Ross draw out trading and profit and loss accounts and balance sheets for these concerns. Of these, Nos. (1), (2), (5), (6), (9) and (10) have been commercialised from 1st April 1925 and Messrs. Fraser & Ross will from that date do the complete audit as they now do for the Russellkonda Saw Mill, the Kerala Soap Institute and the Chaliyam Cannery.

*Management of the Fruit Preserving Institute at Coonoor.*

\* 59 Q.—Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Fruit Preserving Institute, Coonoor, is to be placed under the management of a party unconnected with the Industries Department and unacquainted with the line of work;

(b) whether the party runs a dairy farm at Ootacamund and has no experience at all of jam-making and fruit-preservation; and

(c) whether Government are satisfied that there is none in the Industries Department at present who could be entrusted with the management of the Institute on grounds of economy and better results?

A.—(a) & (b) A temporary Business Manager has been appointed from outside the department in place of the late Manager who was also appointed on a temporary basis from outside the department. The Manager's duties are connected with the business side of the concern and especially the sales of the products of the Institute and not with the manufacturing processes which are supervised by the factory assistant. The former is a whole-time officer and has no connexion with any dairy at Ootacamund. He has no experience of jam-making.

(c) No suitable officer was available in the department.

*The post of Rubber Mycologist.*

\* 60 Q.—Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) when the post of Rubber Mycologist was created; and

(b) what are the duties assigned to the incumbent holding the post?